

From: [Gray, David](#)
To: [Bowman, Liz](#); [Grantham, Nancy](#); [Abboud, Michael](#); [Wilcox, Jahan](#)
Subject: RE: Clarification - EPA Hurricane Harvey
Date: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:32:00 PM

Do you want to answer? Or I can.

The answer is that we did not test general flood water or sediment. It was known to be contaminated of sewage and other materials like motor oil, household cleaners and lawn chemicals.

We sampled or directed responsible parties to test the 43 Superfund sites potentially impacted by the storm. A post-hurricane site summary based on preliminary results is posted on our website for each one. Generally, we found that post-hurricane site conditions are similar to historical conditions at each site before the storm made landfall. Only San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund site is still undergoing an assessment to determine if damage occurred. Final quality assured data takes about two weeks. We are posting those data reports as they arrive.

We conducted air monitoring using both ASPECT (airplane) and TAGA (mobile bus). Data summary reports are on the website also. In general, we did not find air emissions above the state's guidelines.

We tested flood water near the Arkema fires and data reports are posted on our website. The reports did not find significant water pollution from runoff at the plant.

From: Kaplan, Sheila [mailto:sheila.kaplan@nytimes.com]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:08 PM
To: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Clarification - EPA Hurricane Harvey

I'd like to find out what you learned about the water and the sediment, if you took tests. What numbers did you get of the various things you were testing for. and what did you test for?
Thanks, SK

On Mon, Sep 25, 2017 at 2:20 PM, Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Sheila,

I probably need a bit more information on what you are looking to obtain before answering your question with any accuracy. What do you mean by 'actual results'?

David

From: Kaplan, Sheila [mailto:sheila.kaplan@nytimes.com]

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:38 PM

To: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Clarification - EPA Hurricane Harvey

David,

Can I get the actual results, or do I need to file a FOIA? If so, which office should I file the FOIA to, regional or DC. Thank you,
Sheila Kaplan

On Sun, Sep 24, 2017 at 4:16 PM, Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov> wrote:

Greetings,

It appears that FEMA combined information from our original submission in its summary release on Friday that has created some confusion in reporting. I wanted to share this clarification with you.

We wrote:

***Hurricane Harvey Texas Response and Recovery
EPA and TCEQ First 30 Days Roll-Up of Actions (EPA fully integrated with Texas
Commission on Environmental Quality in Unified Command to support these actions.)***

- *Drinking Water Assessments:*
 - *625 on-site drinking water assessments completed*
- *Waste Water Assessments:*
 - *441 on-site waste water assessments completed*
- *517 orphan containers recovered for proper storage*
- *43 National Priorities List Superfund Sites assessments completed*

FEMA wrote:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), working with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, completed 625 drinking water assessments and 441 waste water assessments. The agency conducted assessments of 43 Superfund sites and recovered 517 containers of unidentified, potentially hazardous material.

You can read our latest update from Friday Sept 22 on our website at www.epa.gov/hurricane-harvey. We have also released the latest on Superfund sites and many individual site summaries.

Regarding orphan containers. EPA and our response partners have been collecting containers orphaned after the hurricane. We have been reporting these activities. Here is a

copy of that update. These are not related to Superfund clean ups.

Reconnaissance/Orphan Containers: The TCEQ continues to lead in monitoring facilities that have reported spills. Unified Command has completed reconnaissance activities associated with hurricane impacts. Orphan containers, which include drums and tanks, found floating in or washed up near waterways continue to be gathered, sorted and grouped by type, prior to shipping them off for safe, proper treatment and disposal. All branches of the Unified Command have collected over 980 orphan containers. The Unified Command is preparing collected oil and hazardous materials for proper disposal. Disposal should be completed within the next three weeks. USCG and Texas General Land Office will continue to complete Vessel Recovery activities.

Best,

David

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Sheila Kaplan
Reporter, Washington Bureau
The New York Times
Office: [\(202\) 862-0312](tel:2028620312)
Cell: [\(415\) 305-7305](tel:4153057305)

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Sheila Kaplan
Reporter, Washington Bureau
The New York Times
Office: (202) 862-0312
Cell: (415) 305-7305